source of energy to reduce import of crude oil; and

(b) if so, the details of measures taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Pilot projects have been sanctioned for the use of compressed natural gas as substitute fuel in transport sector.

Steps are also being taken to encourage the use of coal in gradual substitution of other sources of energy.

Fishing Harbours

4718. SHRI N. DENNIS: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of fishing harbours functioning at present in the Western coast of the country;

(b) whether the Government propose to open fishing harbours along the west coast of Tamil Nadu;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) There are 12 fishing harbours functioing at present on the west coast of the country.

(b) to (d). There is no proposal with Central Government at present for establishing a fishing harbour on the west coast of Tamil Nadu. The State Government of Tamil nadu has not made any proposal in this regard.

Indo-Pak Issues

4719. SHRIMATI BASAVA RAJESHWARI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the US had impressed upon both India and Pakistan to settle the outstanding issues amicably; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI): (a) and (b). Yes Sir; the US supports the resolution of Indo-Pak issues peacefully and bilaterally within the framework of the Simla Agreement.

Oil and Natural Gas In Tamil Nadu

4720. SHRI JEEVARATHINAM: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state the places in Tamil Nadu where oil and gas are available and the quaintly thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): At present a total of around 740 tons/day of oil and 131500 M3/day of associated gas is being produced from naimanam and Adiyakkamangalam in Tamil Nadu. Production with commerce in 1991-93 from Kamalapuram where two wells are under worker.

New National seed Policy

4721. SHRI SUDARASAN RAYCHAUDAURI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to formulate a new National Seed Policy; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Oil Palm, cashew and Banana Plantation

4722. SHRIMATI SUSEELA GOPALAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the total area under Oil Palm, Cashew and banana cultivation, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government of Kerala's claim for National Research Centre was not conceded by the Union Government in the case of banana and cashew inspite of the fact thzat Kerala is having large areas under these plantation; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE(SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) The total area under Oil Palm, Cashew and Banana cultivation, State-wise is as under:

	Area in thousand hectares		
State	*Oil Palm*	*Cashew*	*Banana*
Andhra Pradesh	1.60	71.095	33.9
Arunachal Pradesh	-	-	1.0
Assam	-	-	35.4
Bihar	-	-	12.5
Gujarat	-	-	15.9
Karnataka	1.114	74.082	19.0
Kerala	3.70	155.391	61.2
Madhya Pradesh	-	-	16.4
Maharashtra	1.00	22.752	56.8
Manipur	-	-	3.1
Meghalaya	-	-	4.8
Mizoram	-	-	1.9
Orissa	-	59.983	22.3
Tamil Nadu	-	95.620	47.8